#### **JULY 2004**

#### SOUTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

## Major Phil Tilt

# **Overview**

In July 2004, the Southern Command percentage of filled authorized traffic sergeant and trooper positions increased. The increase is due to new hires for the August academy. This decreased the vacancy rate to 15.4% of the authorized traffic positions as compared to 18.8% vacancy rate in June 2004. The filled percentage of authorized sergeant and trooper positions assigned to Commercial Operations is 88%. However, 6 Commercial troopers are assigned temporarily to Traffic Operations. Although the Highway Patrol has filled a number of vacancies for the Southern Command, attrition continues to erode the staffing levels. This means the Southern Command Traffic Operations is still severely under staffed. During the past months, we have continued to lose experienced personnel to other local agencies as well as retirements, and struggle with the substantial lack of personnel working the road. Dispatch vacancies are at 12 positions. The Communications Center will continue to struggle with the lack of manpower until the vacant positions are filled and the new personnel are trained.

Southern Command personnel handled 1,012 crashes during July 2004 as compared to 1,064 crashes in July 2003. This was a decrease of 4.9%. Crashes involving fatalities increased by 50% in July. In actual numbers there were 15 fatal crashes in July 2004 as compared to 10 fatal crashes in July 2003. The number of persons killed increased by 36.4%. The largest reduction of crashes was a 15.5% decline in injury crashes. The Southern Command preliminary documentation shows a 36.8% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle crashes. Of the 36 commercial crashes investigated this month, there were no fatalities, 9 resulted in injuries, and the remainder were property damage only. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 3.6% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command. The Southern Command Commercial Operations is continuing to focus on hazardous moving, and out-of-service violations, which cause or contribute to crashes.

The Southern Command had a decrease in overall enforcement in July 2004. All reportable categories were down 4.2% to 17.9%. The Commercial Operations Section showed significant increases in total trucks weighed, overweight citations, and other traffic violations. The most notable increase was in overweight citations. Through focusing on critical violations, the number of vehicles placed out-of-service increased by 7.4% and total safety violations increased by 1.6%.

Overtime increased 11.6% compared to July 2003. Some of this increase can be attributed to the additional overtime hours worked to provide traffic control, road closures, and command post operations for the Mount Charleston "Robber's" fire.

The 800 MHz Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) went off-line in the Southern Command on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend due to several communications problems during critical incidents compromising officer safety. The Southern Command has been operating on the 150 MHz system since that 4<sup>th</sup> of July transition. In the interim the NSRS has installed the MA/Com Maestro radio consoles and they are currently undergoing testing procedures. The testing and dispatcher training is projected to be completed by the end of August, and the Southern Command expects to be fully operational on the 800 MHz system by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner, and I commend their hard work and dedication.

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	July 04	July 03	% Change	June 04	% Change
Total Crashes	1012	1064	-4.9%	982	3.1%
Property crashes [including commercial vehicles]	720	726	-0.8%	681	5.7%
Injury crashes [including commercial vehicles]	277	328	-15.5%	294	-5.8%
Fatal crashes [including commercial vehicles]	15	10	50.0%	7	114.3%
DUI crashes [DUI charged]	37	41	-9.8%	46	-19.6%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	15	11	36.4%	11	36.4%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	8	2	300.0%	0	800.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	1	-100.0%	2	-200.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1	5	-80.0%	3	-66.7%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	3	-66.7%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	5	2	150.0%	3	66.7%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	36	57	-36.8%	49	-26.5%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	27	46	-41.3%	31	-12.9%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	9	10	-10.0%	18	-50.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes

1.5%
Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes

3.7%
Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed

80.0%
Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes

3.6%

### **CRASH ANALYSIS**

The Southern Command experienced an increase in the total number of crashes during the month of July 2004, as compared to June 2004. Property damage crashes increased by 5.7% from last month, while injury crashes decreased by 5.8%. In comparison to July 2003, we saw a decrease in property damage crashes of .8%. In July of 2003, there were 328 injury crashes as compared to 277 this month, a decrease of 15.5%. This trend of decreasing crash severity can be attributed to a continuing effort in occupant restraint enforcement.

The number of fatal crashes in July increased to 15, as compared to 7 during the month of June. This is an increase of 114% from last month, and a 50% increase from the same time last year. 15 people were killed in these crashes in July 2004, which is an increase of 36% from last month as well as the same time last year.

Of the total crashes reported in the NCATS database during July of 2004, 27% were caused by lane violations – ("unsafe lane change" and "failure to maintain lane"). 10%, were caused by "following to close" violations, and 14%, were caused by "speed too fast for conditions" violations. 8%, were caused by "failure to yield right of way" violations, and another 4%, were caused by "equipment failure". The equipment failure is primarily tire failure, which results in the inattentive driver losing control of their vehicle. This type of crash is typical for the summer months in Southern Nevada, as the heat on the roadways results in increased stress on under, or over, inflated tires.

In an attempt to combat this problem with tire failure, the Nevada Highway Patrol, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol, is starting a program of public education to promote responsible driving between California and Nevada, which also encourages proper maintenance of tires.

Construction zones in the Las Vegas Valley continue to be the common locations for crashes. The US95 corridor continues to undergo major re-engineering and construction, specifically, the US95 widening project between IR15 and Lake Mead Blvd. This specific project has resulted in increased traffic congestion due to roadway narrowing and lane closures.

## CRASH ANALYSIS

#### SOUTHERN CRASH INVESTIGATION DETAIL FATAL ANALYSIS

Fatal crashes were up 114% in July when compared to June. The most significant increase, was in fatalities involving unrestrained drivers, up 300% from the same time period last year and up 800% from June. Pedestrian accidents were up 66% in July when compared to June. There were two DUI fatal accidents that have been submitted for prosecution. This is down slightly from the previous reporting period.

The Southern Command CID tracks crash-causing violations into 5 categories: lane violations, intersection violations, speed too fast for conditions violations, pedestrian error, and other violations. When comparing violations during this rating period, there is a significant problem with lane violations and pedestrian error. Between these two violations, they account for 13 of the 15 fatal accidents during July.

#### **COMMERCIAL CRASH ANALYSIS**

Commercial vehicles were at fault in more than half of the commercial crashes investigated by the Southern Command. Fatal and injury crash numbers remain relatively unchanged. Commercial vehicle crashes account for less than 4% of the total crashes.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

## CRIMINAL INTERDICTION

During the month of July, the Southern Command's Criminal Interdiction team conducted 162 traffic stops and 33 motorist assists. From the traffic stops, there were 30 consent searches that resulted in 8 felony drug charges, 1 felony criminal charge, 1 DUI, and 6 other arrests. Additionally, 30 citations were issued.

The following is a breakdown of the seizures that resulted from these searches:

Marijuana: 172.7 Lbs S172,700.00
Methamphetamine: 707 Grams \$21, 210.00
U.S. Currency: \$168,020.00

## **AVERAGE BAC**

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested in July 2004 was 0.151%. Drivers arrested prior to crashing had an average BAC of 0.148%, and drivers arrested post crash had an average BAC of 0.161%. Of all drivers arrested, 0.11% tested positive for controlled substance. In addition, 26% of drivers arrested had a prior conviction for DUI; this is up 12% from last month. The average age for all drivers arrested for DUI was 33 years old.

#### COMMERCIAL FIELD ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS

Many hours were spent on special projects including the "Robber's Fire" on Mt. Charleston during the month of July 2004. Despite the time spent on non enforcement activities, the Southern Command Commercial Operations Section showed only slight changes in activity. Hazardous moving violations increased 25% when compared to July of 2003, and decreased 19%, compared to June of 2004. Total safety inspections showed a nominal change from last month and a 25% decrease compared to last year.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, vers	us same periou	пр	evious jiscui ye	cui, versus prev	ious	reporting perio	<i>Ju</i> j
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	July 04		July 03	% Change		June 04	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	37		41	-9.8%		46	-19.6%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	134		147	-8.8%		120	11.7%
Other arrests	659		774	-14.9%		604	9.1%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	304		360	-15.6%		288	5.6%
Speed violations	2523		3074	-17.9%		2349	7.4%
Hazardous moving violations	1687		2002	-15.7%		1852	-8.9%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	530		569	-6.9%		569	-6.9%
Total violations [above violations included]	8001		8353	-4.2%		7856	1.8%
COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	80		99	-19.2%		64	25.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	274		224	22.3%		195	40.5%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	610		611	-0.2%		819	-25.5%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	5		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Total safety violations citation	331		353	-6.2%		365	-9.3%
Total safety violations repair order	2267		2231	1.6%		2535	-10.6%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	160		149	7.4%		231	-30.7%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	66		76	-13.2%		95	-30.5%
Total school buses inspected	474		346	37.0%		0	47400.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	80		56	42.9%		0	8000.0%
Total trucks weighed	541		235	130.2%		769	-29.6%
Total overweight citations	113		35	222.9%		41	175.6%
Total dyed fuel inspections	616		625	-1.4%		819	-24.8%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		2	-50.0%		1	0.0%

\*Seatbelt and Child Restraint

## Commercial Operations Activity Included

#### TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

In July 2004, DUI arrest prior to crash increased by 11.7% as compared to June 2004. DUI arrests from crashes decreased by 19.6% when compared to the same period. This improvement in arresting DUI drivers before they crash is a result of Traffic Operations' ongoing focus and commitment towards DUI enforcement. Total enforcement increased 1.8% from last month.

# STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Total Aut Posit		Current Positions Staffed		Vacancy Rate				
STAFFING	July 04	July 03	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage			
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	148	33*	93	23.0	15.4%			
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	25	26	9*	13	3.0	12.0%			
Commercial cvsi	4	5	2	2	0.0	0.0%			
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY									
WORK HOURS LOST	July 04		July 03	% Change	June 04	% Change			
Annual leave	1723.50		1486.25	16.0%	1196	44.1%			
Compensatory leave	1591.25		433	267.5%	457	248.2%			
Sick leave [personal and family]	1429.52		1641.5	-12.9%	993.75	43.9%			
	10		550	98.2%	112	-91.1%			
Holiday off	85		90	-5.6%	0	8500.0%			
Training	1293.67		1251.25	3.4%	1897.83	-31.8%			
Administrative leave	6551.50		109.25	5896.8%	669	879.3%			
Leave without pay				0.0%		0.0%			
Total work hours lost	12684.44		5561.25	128.1%	5325.58	138.2%			
OVERTIME	July 04		July 03	% Change	June 04	% Change			
Paid overtime claimed	2182.22		2008.85	8.6%	2043.67	6.8%			
Compensatory overtime claimed	289.08		205.5	40.7%	173.33	66.8%			
Total overtime hours	2471.30		2214.35	11.6%	2217	11.5%			
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	July 04		July 03	% Change	June 04	% Change			
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours**	18684		19203	-2.7%	18165	2.9%			
Work hours lost	12684.44		5561.25	128.1%	5325.58	138.2%			
Overtime	2471.30		2214.35	11.6%	2217	11.5%			
Total hours worked	8470.86		15856.1	-46.6%	15056.42	-43.7%			

<sup>\*</sup> Admin assignment includes: TDY, academy, & staff assignments \*\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

## STAFFING / WORK HOURS

## TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

In July, the time spent in training Southern Command traffic personnel decreased by 31.8% from June 2004. Annual leave usage increased by 44.1% over the previous month, while compensatory leave usage increased by 248%. Sick leave usage increased by 43.9%.

During July, one trooper retired, and the Southern Command lost 4 civilian personnel. Currently the Southern Command has 11 new troopers in the Public Safety Training Program, which is the final stage of their training.

#### **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

During the month of July 2004, the Southern Command Commercial Operations was staffed with two sergeants, one acting sergeant, eleven troopers, and four CVSI's. The acting sergeant is on administrative assignment. The Southern Command Commercial Operations has one sergeant and two trooper vacancies. Six trooper positions are assigned to traffic and will be counted as administrative positions. A new sergeant will report to Southern Command in September, assuming the sergeant duties that are currently handled by an acting sergeant.

## **OVERTIME**

Overtime increased by 11% compared to July and last year. Paid overtime was up 8% and compensatory overtime claimed was up 40%.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

#### **EVIDENCE VAULT**

The Nevada Highway Patrol retains the responsibility for administering the Department of Public Safety Evidence Vault. A review of the evidence placed into the vault during July 2004, revealed a 3% increase in the number of July cases submitted with evidence over the previous month. Also, in an attempt to clear up the backlog of items not yet logged into the evidence database, 291 items of evidence, associated with 164 cases were entered into the database. This is an increase of 16.46% for cases and 28.18% for items over the previous month. The most significant increase was in the number of items disposed, which increased by 99.14% over the previous month.

The breakdown for the month of July showed the following usage by Division:

Submitting Agency% of Case SubmissionsNevada Highway Patrol99% of Case SubmissionsCompliance Enforcement1% of Case Submissions

## **CONTRACT SERVICES**

The number of events that required contracted service dropped in July. The hours of service provided under contracts decreased, by 68%. In June, the Southern Command billed \$21,118.00 for 362.50 hours contracted. In July, we billed \$6,855.00 for the 118 hours provided.

## RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT

#### ACCIDENT RATIOS

July 04

Region wide crash ratios per Traffic position	
Total	10.9
Property	7.7
Injury	3.0
Fatal	0.2
DUI	0.4
Commercial vehicle	0.4
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash *	1.0
without seatbelts	0.5
with seatbelts	0.1

<sup>\*</sup> Including non-motorist fatalities

#### FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Region wide enforcement ratios per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.4
DUI arrests prior to crashes	1.4
Other arrests	7.1
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.3
Speed violations	27.1
Hazardous moving violations	18.1
Occupant restraint violations	5.7
Total violations	86.0

#### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Troopers logged 20,893 contacts with the public in July. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic crashes, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation.

The traffic enforcement ratios have been broken down further, to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

In the rural areas of the Southern Command, traffic troopers investigated approximately 3 crashes per staffed field operations position. Approximately 76 citations were issued per staffed position and less than one DUI arrest was made per position.

In the Urban areas of the Southern Command, the crash ratio was approximately 12 crashes per staffed traffic position. Approximately 85 citations were issued per staffed field position and approximately two DUI arrests were made per position.

## RATIOS - CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT Cont'd

#### INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

July 04

6.2
21.1
40.7
0.3
25.5
0.5
151.1
3.7
10.7
0.3
4.4
0.1
31.6
5.3
41.6
8.7
47.4
0.1

<sup>\*</sup> Commercial sworn only

In July 2004, hazardous moving enforcement increased significantly to 6.2 citations per trooper positions. The ratio of other traffic violations resulting in citations was 21.1 per position, also a significant increase. Safety inspections decreased slightly to 40.7 per position, and safety violations cited was 25.5 per position. These changes reflect an effort to apply more resources towards hazardous moving violations and thereby reduce traffic crashes and their severity.

Total trucks weighed decreased by 29.6% when compared to June 2004. However, overweight citations increased by 175.6%. This is a clear indicator that the Commercial Operations Section is identifying the overweight trucks and weighing those rather than spending time on trucks operating legally.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS Cont'd

## PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH CENTER

Installation of the 800 MHz radio consoles was completed without incident and training is scheduled the end of August.

The Southern Command Communications Center continues to struggle with a 38% vacancy rate. A veteran dispatcher was hired back in a part-time position and will be working two days a week. Another veteran dispatcher has applied for a part-time position and is awaiting the completion of his background investigation.

The following is a summary of call types received in the Southern Command Public Safety Dispatch Center:

- > 673 media calls (a decrease of 9% from June 2004 and an increase of 8% from July 2003)
- ➤ 159,799 radio transmissions (an increase by 3% from June 2004 and an increase of 4% from July 2003)
  - o July 2004 average daily radio transmissions per shift
    - Graveyard 1,085Day Shift 1,936
    - Swing Shift 2,134
- > 39,485 telephone calls (an increase of 10% from June 2004 and an increase of 1% from July 2003)
  - o Average daily phone calls per shift
    - Graveyard 234
    - Day Shift 465
    - Swing Shift 574
- > 157 Call Box incidents (a 19 % decrease from June 2004)

#### **RECORDS SECTION**

During July 2004, the Records Section assisted 794 visitors. This is a 6% decrease from the same period in 2003 in which 845 visitors were assisted.

This section processed 1,103 crash reports. This is a slight increase from the same period in 2003, in which there were 1,089 crash reports processed. This section wrote 51 office reports, compared to 52 in 2003.

Forty-seven incident reports have been processed this month compared to 43 in July 2003, a slight increase.

The number of towed vehicle releases, 133, is exactly the same as experienced during this month last year.

6,342 copies of crash reports have been mailed this month compared to 6,166 the same month in 2003. This represents an increase of approximately 2%.

During July, staffing in the Records Section has again decreased by 2 people. Two AA2 positions in Court Services were filled by AA1's from Records. Interviews to fill these positions are scheduled for August  $4^{\text{h}}$  and  $5^{\text{th}}$ .

## OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS

There were 7 new reports generated in July 2004. There were no reports cleared in the month of July. As of July 31, 2004, twenty reports remain outstanding.

## **COURT SERVICES SECTION**

The Court Services Section received 304 bench warrants from area courts during July 2004. Four hundred and twenty four warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System; this section also validated 1432 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness. Court Services accomplished the above work load with one vacancy and one new employee in training.

This section arranged 11 in state transports and 1 extradition of a wanted subject, which is a decrease from last month.

## **DATA ENTRY**

The Data Entry section had an increase in their citation entry of 366 % for July 2004. The section is 3 months behind in their citation entry. The accident report backlog continues to decrease, due to the sworn personnel inputting most of their own accident reports. This section had one vacant position for ½ of July 2004, and a trooper on light duty assisted in the citation entry for the month.

#### FLIGHT OPERATIONS

During the month of July, a total of 33.6 hours were flown, and 57% of the aircrafts flight time or 19.4 hours was used for 4 traffic enforcement missions. Those 4 traffic enforcement missions resulted in 191 citations, or a little more than 10 citations an hour, so when the aircraft is enforcing, the Southern Command identifies and takes action against a traffic violation every 6 minutes.

Of the remainder flight time 22% was spent to transport personnel and property within the state, and 21% was used for 3 in-state prisoner transports.

July FY05 operations costs were \$4,659.64 for the Southern Command aircraft. Revenue from traffic enforcement (\$63,033.00) and prisoner transports (\$2,533.00) contributed \$65,566.00 to the counties through the court system\*.

\* Note: This amount is based on bail amounts and bail schedules provided by the courts at that given time.

## PERSONNEL

#### **NEW HIRES**

Cosandra Williams
Pat McDonald (re-hired)

#### RESIGNATIONS

Vickie Shultz Cynthia Wilson

#### RETIREMENTS

Kent Howell

## **NO LONGER EMPLOYED**

Peggy Sanders Crystal Mudge

## **COMMENDATIONS**

- A citizen wrote to thank Sergeant Mack for his assistance with changing a flat tire.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Wine for his assistance and professionalism at the scene of an accident.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Thurston for his assistance while stranded on the highway.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Shaun Martin for assisting with changing a flat tire.
- Acting Lieutenant Jackson received a commendation for providing excellent training and teaching techniques at a Defensive Tactics training class.
- ➤ Commercial Enforcement troopers received commendation letters from the Command Staff for their increased enforcement efforts.
- LVMPD wrote commendation letters to thank Sergeant Steve Aldridge, Troopers Dutchover, Moonin, Owens, and Shaun Martin, for assisting with the "Hand It Over" operation.
- > Special Olympics wrote to thank NHP for supporting the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

## **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman's Briefing**

Personnel reporting to Nellis Air Force Base were presented a class on Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated. July 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Remote Televisions in Vehicles: Danger -v- Convenience

Channel 13 (ABC) story on the fad of having remote televisions installed and the dangers of the distractions they cause drivers. How law enforcement is dealing with this problem. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## LVMPD: Marion Earl Elementary *DARE* Graduation

Stay in school, stay off drugs campaign. Speech given to over 100 5<sup>th</sup> graders, teachers, and parents. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004

# Joining forces: NHP and LVMPD Traffic Enforcement

Fox 5 update on the efforts of our departments no exceptions enforcement to reduce the accident and careless driving habits of the public. July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004

# LVMPD: Doris Hancock Elementary DARE Graduation

Stay in school, stay off drugs campaign. Speech given to over 100 5<sup>th</sup> graders, teachers, and parents. July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004

# LVMPD: Ira J. Earl Elementary DARE Graduation

Stay in school, stay off drugs campaign. Speech given to over  $100.5^{th}$  graders, teachers, and parents. July  $16^{th}$ , 2004

# Findlay Cadillac and SAAB Blood drive

Blood drive given in honor for the lives lost at the Sunrise Children at Hospital. July  $24^{\rm th}$ , 2004

# Nevada Highway Patrol

Southern Command

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The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.

Richard Bach